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TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Technical co-operation in statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report summarizes the technical co-operation programmes in statistics of organizations of the United Nations system and several multilateral organizations during the period 1987-1990. It updates the previous report on the subject (E/CN.3/1989/16), which covered the period 1985-1988.

The report provides information on the main components of the programmes of the United Nations system (paras. 3-73). Information is presented on technical co-operation activities of United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions (paras. 5-45), the specialized agencies (paras. 46-73). Information supplied by other multilateral agencies is summarized (paras. 74-77).

Issues and problems in training (paras. 78-81) and in data processing and informatics, including the use of microcomputers by developing countries in overall statistical data processing and, in particular, in the data capture of return from censuses and surveys (paras. 82-86) are addressed.

In addition, the report reviews available information on priorities for statistical development in terms of those established by multilateral donor agencies and various international programmes with technical co-operation components (paras. 87-93). Points for discussions by the Statistical Commission are included (para. 94).

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session a report on technical co-operation in statistics taking into account, in so far as possible, the suggestions made by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session. 1/ The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its thirteenth session, decided that information describing technical co-operation activities of multilateral and bilateral agencies should be presented in as concise and abbreviated manner as possible and more detailed description should be included in the Directory of Technical Co-operation in Statistics. 2/ The Working Group also decided that the report should include, in so far as possible, information on priorities in terms of those established by the recipient countries, the donor agencies and various international programmes with technical co-operation components. In view of the decisions of the Working Group and the 24-page limitation of documents, the content of the present document is limited to information on multilateral agencies.

2. The information on technical co-operation in statistics contained in this report and its annex was supplied by the organizations responding to a questionnaire from the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. There was considerable difficulty in standardizing the estimates provided by the various organizations. In many cases, it was difficult for organizations to identify and measure separately technical co-operation activities and regular work programme activities. In view of the problem of compatibility, no attempt was made to aggregate the expenditures of different agencies.

I. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

3. The data are derived from individual submissions from the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the statistical services of the regional commissions, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The expenditure data of United Nations Headquarters include some components attributable to demographic analysis and projections, and the data should be viewed in that context. In addition, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Bank submitted written statements but no data.

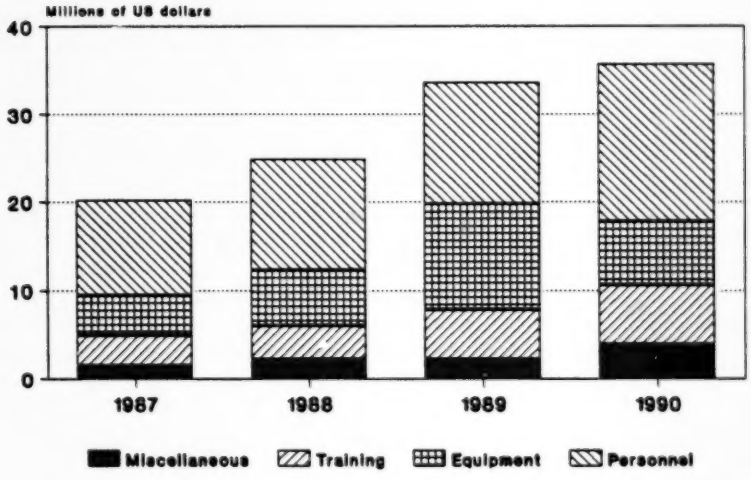
4. Table A.1 and A.2 in the annex provide information on expenditure by organization and by major components. Tables 3, 4 and 5 include expenditure by regions and subject area.

A. United Nations

5. The United Nations technical co-operation programme in statistics refers to the programme of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions of the United Nations. The main objective of technical co-operation is to assist developing countries to

strengthen and extend national services and capabilities for collecting, processing, disseminating and using a broad range of development-related statistics. Assistance is provided in statistical organization and development, specifically in areas such as general economic statistics, national accounts as well as social and demographic statistics, statistics on women, statistics on special population groups, integrated statistical services, household surveys and statistical data processing and informatics. During the period under review, emphasis was given to the 1990 round of population and housing censuses, to ensuring developing countries have full access to appropriate new techniques for processing and disseminating statistics, to the problems of those developing countries that are the least advanced in statistics, to work carried out under the umbrella of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) and to improving statistics on the situation of women. The total cost of the support provided by the United Nations technical co-operation programme for the formulation and execution of country, regional and interregional projects was of the order of $33.6 million for 1989, registering a growth of 35.5 per cent from $24.8 million for 1988. Expenditures by components for the United Nations system are given in the annex in table A.1 and for DTCD and the regional commissions in the annex in table A.2.

United Nations expenditure by component



Personnel

6. Personnel refers to Headquarters and field staff. Headquarters staff includes the personnel based at the United Nations Headquarters and at the headquarters of the regional commissions. At United Nations Headquarters there are two interregional advisers, one in statistical training and population statistics and one in computer and informatics. There are also 16 technical advisers and two

associate experts who provide full-time support for technical co-operation activities related to the formulation and execution of country, regional and interregional projects. The number include two new posts provided by trust funds to improve statistics on women. In addition, a project co-ordinator and three computer experts are attached to a project concerned with the development and distribution of software packages for processing and analysis of population statistics data. In the regional commissions there were 23 regional advisers in statistics and in statistical data processing in 1989: 13 at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), 5 at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 4 at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and 1 at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In addition to the technical advisers, regular staff members of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the statistics divisions of the regional commissions provided overall substantive direction to technical co-operation activities in statistics and carried out specific technical co-operation missions and functions. Field staff comprise all staff employed at the country level whose duties are directly related to the execution of, and whose remuneration is charged to, country projects. In 1989 a total of 160 persons were engaged in statistical posts in country projects executed by DTCD either as short-term consultants or resident experts. For 1989, the total cost of personnel was $13.9 million of which $10.9 million related to the DTCD/Statistical Office expenditures for headquarters and field staff (see table A.2).

Training

7. Training remained a very important aspect in the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. It covered fellowships, on-the-job training, study tours, participation in training workshops and seminars and local training provided by the field staff and the interregional and technical advisers. Indeed, most country projects provide support for an explicit training component. All resident experts and most short-term consultants are expected to provide training to counterpart staff during their assignment.

8. In addition to the training activities in country projects, there are other training programmes in interregional, global or regional projects financed by the regular budget of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development with the substantive support of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. One such project is an interregional project initiated in the biennium 1982-1983 for the training of junior statisticians and programmers. The main objective of this project has been to develop and strengthen the capability of and linkages among the developing countries through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries. During the biennium 1987-1988, 39 fellows received training in 13 countries and in 1989, 17 fellows received training in 3 countries, 3 were from Portuguese-speaking African countries who were given on-the-job training in Brazil. The training under this project covered such topics as census and survey cartography, statistical sampling, census and survey field organization, national accounts, price statistics, household survey, civil registration and vital statistics and data processing.

9. Under the rouble component of the regular budget, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development continued the training programme conducted in Tashkent, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in economic statistics and in collection and processing of statistical data. Two sessions are given each year with approximately 15 fellows from statistically less developed countries attending each session for the period under review.

10. In 1989, four workshops funded by the regular budget of DTCD were convened:

(a) Workshop on Disability Statistics held in Malta, in November 1989, with 29 participants from 28 developing countries;

(b) National Accounts Development and Training Project held at the United Nations Headquarters, in November 1989, with 15 participants from 9 countries;

(c) Workshop on External Trade held in Ghana, in November 1989, with 21 participants from 21 countries; and

(d) Workshop on Planning Organization and Administration of Large-Scale Demographic and Social Data Collection Activities held in Thailand, in November 1989, with 14 participants from 13 countries.

In addition two workshops were funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

(a) Workshop on Population Databases and Related Topics held in the Netherlands, in November 1989, with 17 participants from 16 countries; and

(b) Civil Registration Workshop held in Kenya, in November 1989.

11. On the regional front, a project has been established for census training in sub-Saharan African countries with assistance from UNFPA and multilateral support from the Government of Canada. The project has three components: national courses, subregional courses and international fellowship courses. The national and subregional courses, covering such topics as census cartography, census organization, data processing, data analysis or use of software, are organized by the Economic Commission for Africa. The international component of the project organized by Statistics Canada consists of short-term training courses held in Canada such as the course on the use of sampling (French) from May to June 1989 with 16 participants from 16 countries and the course on the use of microcomputers in demographic statistics with 10 participants from 9 countries.

12. Under the regular programme of DTCD, a consultation mission was undertaken to Somalia for advisory assistance in developing disability statistics, from 28 April to 13 May 1990.

Equipment

13. Equipment provided under the United Nations technical co-operation programmes in statistics include computer hardware and software, vehicles, cartographic and printing equipment and general office equipment. The percentage of expenditure

allocated to equipment has been on the rise. In 1987, the expenditure for equipment accounted for 23 per cent of the total expenditure for that year. In 1988, the percentage was 25 per cent, and in 1989 it increased to 35 per cent. This increase due mainly to the large amount of newly approved projects at the end of 1988 and during 1989, is also a direct result of the developing world's discovery of the advantages of computers and packages in processing, tabulating and analyzing statistical data.

Expenditure by region

14. A regional breakdown of expenditures by United Nations Headquarters in New York and the regional commissions is given in the annex table A.3. Until 1988, the trend had been that Africa benefited the most from technical co-operation. However, in 1989, Asia received slightly more assistance than Africa due to two population census projects in China, with a total budget of about $7 million. The 1990 figures, derived from the beginning of the year budget, show that Africa is again the major recipient of technical co-operation within the United Nations with an allocation of 55 per cent of the total budget.

Expenditure by subject area

15. Technical co-operation projects executed by DTCD, with the substantive support of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, covered a wide variety of statistical subjects and capabilities. During the period under review, in part as a consequence of countries efforts to implement the 1990 round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme, as shown in annex table A.5, 62.6 per cent of DTCD total expenditure in 1989 (or $18.4 million) was expenditure on population-based statistics which, in addition to population censuses, includes household and other surveys, sampling and statistics on women. Expenditures on national accounts and other economic statistics comprised 18.5 per cent of the total expenditures (or $5.4 million) and projects in data processing not related to population censuses accounted for 11.4 per cent of the total (or $3.3 million).

1. Economic Commission for Africa

16. Activities in statistics during the period 1987-1990 have been in the areas of population censuses, demographic surveys, migration statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, statistical training, household surveys, national accounts and statistical data base development. Expenditures in ECA technical co-operation covering those fields were $1.3 million in 1987, $1.7 million in 1988 and $1.9 million in 1989 (see annex table A.2). The approved budget for 1990 is $2,142,000.

17. In the field of demographic statistics, ECA provided assistance mainly under the projects, "Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics" (RASDS), "Project Demographique Assistance a l'UDEAC" (UDEAC/DEP) and Census Training Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa. RASDS and UDEAC/DEP are funded by UNFPA and executed by ECA while the Census Training Programme is funded by the Government of Canada under multi-bilateral arrangements with UNFPA and executed by DTCD with ECA

as associate executing agency. About 50 missions were undertaken during each of the three years 1987 to 1989 to monitor and provide technical support to population censuses, demographic surveys, civil registration and vital statistics programmes in ECA member States. In addition to the advisory missions, two working group meetings were held in Addis Ababa during the reporting period, one on Recommendations for the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (May 1987) and another on migration statistics (November 1989). Also a working group on possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics was held in Moscow, in September 1987, under the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation.

18. A number of regional/subregional workshops and national-level courses have been organized by the ECA Statistics Division during the period under consideration as part of the Census Training Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa: (a) one on population and housing censuses for English-speaking African countries (Addis Ababa, October 1987); (b) two others on census cartography in Kigali (April 1988) for eastern and central French-speaking African countries and the other in Nairobi (May 1989) for eastern and southern English-speaking African countries; (c) a workshop on the coverage of economic activity topics in population censuses for English-speaking African countries (Addis Ababa, December 1989). At the national level, training courses in census organization have been conducted in Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda, while data processing courses were conducted in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Niger, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Zambia.

19. In the field of statistical training, a total of 19 advisory missions were undertaken. A number of these missions were devoted to the examination of statistical training facilities for the Portuguese-speaking African countries. In addition, 19 teaching missions were undertaken to some Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) centres, national middle-level training centres and in-service training programmes. Two monolingual subregional seminars were organized in 1988 for trainers involved in middle-level statistical training/in-service training at the national level. Consultants were provided to some STPA centres to lecture on specific topics in applied statistics. Two biennial meetings of Directors of centres participating in STPA were held at ECA headquarters, one in October 1987 and the other in December 1989.

20. As a result of the special assistance jointly provided with the European Economic Community (EEC) to Portuguese-speaking African countries, two training centres are being established in 1990, one in Lisbon for the training of professional-level statisticians for all the countries of the group and the other in Bissau for the training of middle-level statistical personnel for Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe.

21. In the field of household surveys, a total of 52 advisory missions were undertaken. These missions had one of the following objectives: formulation of new project proposals or technical backstopping and monitoring of on-going projects. Nine countries benefited from the formulation of new project proposals: Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zambia. Five other countries benefitted from methodological

assistance, namely Burkina Faso, Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania. One working group on household surveys was held in Addis Ababa in October 1989 which brought together 22 experts from 21 countries. There are 23 countries currently participating in the African Household Surveys Capability Programme (AHSCP). They are as follows: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

22. In the field of national accounts and basic economic statistics, a total of nine advisory missions were undertaken. During these missions, technical assistance was provided to some African countries in the development of national capability through in-service training of local staff, the preparation of economic accounts with the effective participation of these staff and the processing of national accounts using micro-computers. A workshop on the improvement of basic economic statistics required for planning purposes was organized in Addis Ababa in September 1988.

23. Finally, under the project "Data Collection Related to Development Programmes and Aid Flows in Africa", executed by the World Bank with ECA as associate executing agency, two reports were prepared: (a) report on the assessment of African statistical capacity and recommendations on means to strengthen national statistical capacity and (b) a report on base-line indicators on population, social and environment statistics for long-term monitoring of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

Priorities for statistical development in Africa

24. Priorities for statistical development in African countries were extensively discussed at the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, which was held in Addis Ababa, from 3 to 12 March 1986.

25. The priorities which were discussed at this meeting arose from the results of a survey of African national statistical services of which 22 African countries completed the questionnaire. The order of priorities from highest to lowest which the African countries provided in the survey were as follows: demographics, derived statistics (national accounts, balance of payment), prices, external trade, establishment (industry employment), agriculture, household sector, health, education, social, transport, communications and environment.

26. The ECA secretariat in examining practical sectoral measures to be taken for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, suggested an African list of priorities in relation to subject fields from highest to lowest, as follows: agriculture; population; industry; transport and communications; trade (international and domestic), including finance and prices; energy; household sector; derived statistics; health; education; labour force; human resources; social conditions with emphasis on women; children; youth; the aged and the disabled; environment; natural resources; science and technology; and tourism.

27. The sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, recognizing the problems which African countries continued to face in their statistical development programmes, adopted the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s. In this plan of action the African countries included a section on statistical priorities to be addressed during the 1990s. The statement put in the plan of action is as follows: "In accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, National Statistical Offices should consider the following as priority areas in future statistical programmes: food and agriculture, industry, human resources, transport and communication, trade and finance, environment, energy, women and development, population and development and informal sector."

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

28. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) continued to provide technical co-operation to developing countries in various areas of statistics amounting to $450,000 in 1987, $526,000 in 1988, $921,000 in 1989 and an estimated $1,236,000 in 1990. The total expenditures for 1987 and 1988 were much lower than originally estimated due to limited extrabudgetary resources. Demographic and social statistics, including sampling and surveys, accounted for $438,000 in 1987, increasing to $490,000 in 1990.

29. During the period under review, training played a major role in the activities of ESCAP. Various advanced courses, seminars, workshops and expert groups were organized in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). In May 1987, ESCAP sponsored an Expert Group on Statistical Education and Training. In addition to two advanced courses on Statistics related to Poverty, Inequality and Basic Needs (Bangkok, July 1988) and Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Agricultural Census (Bangkok, July-August 1988) a Seminar on Improving the Timeliness and Quality of Statistics was held in Bangkok in December 1988. Two advanced courses, one on Projections for Social and Economic Planning (Bangkok, June 1989) and one on Statistics of the Informal Sector (Bangkok, October-November, 1989) were conducted. A Seminar on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s was held in Bangkok from 31 July to 4 August 1989. In 1990, one Advanced Workshop on Statistics Relating to Industrial Activities, the Informal Sectors and Household Economic Activities was held in Bangkok in August 1990 and another in December 1990.

30. Assistance to countries on government computerization was mainly in the areas of advisory missions, workshops and training courses designed to help countries in planning and managing the computerization process, especially in activities related to the 1990 round of population and housing censuses.

31. In co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Korea, ESCAP conducted a seminar on the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) for the Asia and the Pacific subregions, to provide each subregion with the opportunity to discuss its specific needs completely. With financial assistance from DTCD, ESCAP was able to extend the seminars to allow time to brief the participants more fully on the issues involved in the SNA revision process. Phase

six of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) began in 1990. Financial support and host facilities provided by Japan for a seminar on the use of purchasing power parities to be conducted (in Japan) in November 1990.

Priorities for statistical development in the ESCAP region

32. The statistics programme of ESCAP has received direction and guidance on the planning of its technical assistance activities through various sessions of the Committee on Statistics and its predecessor and successor bodies. In the ESCAP region, technical assistance and co-operation in statistics has been provided and arranged by ESCAP and SIAP in the form of regional advisory services, technical meetings and training courses and statistical and methodological publications. Representatives of countries of the ESCAP region have expressed their support for these at the various sessions of the Committee on Statistics and at the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics held in 1989.

33. Concerning workshops and seminars, the secretariat has been able to obtain preference rankings of subject priorities from the meeting of the Working Group of Statistical Experts, the last session of which was held in November/December 1988. With regard to regional advisory services, there have been suggestions to provide services in such additional areas as sampling methodology, census cartography, social statistics and transport statistics. Consideration is also being given to global developments where statistics has a distinct role to play. Thus, some topics have been suggested to the Committee or placed in the statistics work programme as a response to emerging demand for certain statistics or in support of United Nations resolutions and global and regional plans of action. For example, the project on statistics for human resources development has been added to the work programme in support of the Jakarta Plan of Action of Human Resources Development.

34. The selection of topics to be included in the programme of activities is also dictated by the availability of financial support. For example, a large team of UNFPA-funded regional advisers at ESCAP worked on population statistics and population-related activities, the UNICEF/ESCAP Training Workshop on Social Indicators for Children and Women in the Asia-Pacific Region, a joint activity, was actually initiated and funded by UNICEF.

35. In addition, at the recently concluded forty-sixth session of ESCAP, the need to improve the skills of national statistical offices in analysis and interpretation of data and in microcomputer and software package applications was recognized. The importance of small-area/subnational level statistics was also emphasized.

3. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

36. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued to provide technical co-operation in statistics to countries of the region in the fields of household surveys, national accounts and economic statistics, demographic

and social statistics, statistical data processing and informatics. Its total expenditure for the 1987 was $742,348, $577,969 in 1988, $816,994 in 1989 and an estimated $572,186 for 1990.

37. Technical advisory services continued to be provided, and special emphasis was given to the training of national counterparts in the carrying out of household surveys and population and housing surveys in preparation for the 1990 round of population surveys.

Priorities of the 1992-1993 statistics programme in the ESCWA region

National accounts

38. In the framework of United Nations efforts to complete and implement the revised system of national accounts, the ESCWA Statistics Division plans to organize a regional workshop on the revised SNA in the second half of 1993. The workshop is aimed at assisting member States to introduce the new system of national accounts which will be adopted in its final version by the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 1993.

Social statistics

39. This priority is selected to meet the objective (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which is "Development, collection, standardization and dissemination of social statistics, including statistics on the situation of women and other special population groups". In the next biennium a study on social statistics in the ESCWA region is planned. It will include an assessment of existing statistics in the field and their future development, in line with the United Nations Handbook on Social Indicators and other relevant publications.

Vital registration and statistics

40. This priority has been set in accordance with the request made by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat to contribute to the International Programme For Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems. It also meets the objective (c) of the 1992-1997 medium-term plan, which is "Development of sources of population statistics, including population and housing censuses, civil registration system and demographic surveys".

41. The planned activity for the next biennium consists of a regional seminar to be attended by officials responsible for registration and compilation of vital statistics in the ESCWA region.

Environment statistics

42. In the next biennium the Statistics Division plans to implement a regional programme for the development of environment statistics, including an expert group meeting to discuss, among other things, international guidelines and recommendations of two technical studies recently published by the United Nations.

Industrial statistics

43. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat plans to launch the 1993 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and requested the regional commissions to contribute to the implementation of this programme. The Statistics Division will carry out a regional training workshop in 1993 in connection with the World Programme.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

44. The technical co-operation programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to developing countries in statistics amounted to $508,900 in 1987, $706,900 in 1988, $563,300 in 1989 and an estimated $377,100 in 1990.

45. In co-operation with the Government of Costa Rica, a project was launched in 1987 to render assistance in household surveys. Expert services were provided in the field of demographic and social statistics. In 1988 ECLAC executed a regional project providing training to regional statistical offices related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of Population and Housing Censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean. Training and equipment were provided to the countries of the region in the field of informatics and statistical data processing. In Venezuela a project on change of base year of national accounts was initiated. Assistance in the form of training and advisory services was provided up to 1990. In co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ESCAP executed a project in Guatemala providing assistance in the form of consultants, training and provision of equipment for multi-sector statistics with the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) as the national counterpart. In the Dominican Republic it provided advisory services for the evaluation of national accounts. Other projects executed included a project on change of base year for national accounts carried out in Bolivia with the INE providing consultancy services, and a project providing training for the improvement of national accounts in Paraguay with the Banco Central de Paraguay providing consultancy services. Training in demographic and social statistics to support preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean was provided to various countries of the region.

B. Specialized agencies

1. International Labour Organisation (ILO)

46. During the period under review, ILO continued to provide technical co-operation in statistics financed through extra-budgetary resources, mainly UNDP. Expenditure for 1987 was $987,000, for 1988 it was $1,107,000, and for 1989 it amounted to $1,042,000. Estimated expenditure for 1990 was $1,121,000. Advisory services were provided by three regional advisers, one in the Asian region and two in Africa. Headquarters staff continued to provide assistance in the areas

of programme formulation and technical guidance. Assistance was concentrated in the area of demographic and social statistics, sampling and surveys.

ILO priorities

47. The ILO priorities for statistical development within the next four years will be:

(a) The preparation of standards and/or guidelines on:

(i) Statistics of informal sector employment;

(ii) The international classification of status in employment;

(iii) Statistics of strikes and lockouts to be presented at the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1992/1993;

(b) Developmental work with respect to statistics of income from employment, a labour accounting system and statistics of absence from work; these topics will also be discussed by the Conference.

48. Another priority relates to training. With the availability of four ILO manuals in the major field of labour statistics, the Bureau has the capability to organize training courses in labour statistics for national statisticians and for users of labour statistics. A first course is scheduled for 1991 and it is hoped that it will become a regular activity of the Bureau.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

49. FAO provided technical co-operation in food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics. FAO expenditure on technical co-operation in statistics was $9 million in 1987, $9.2 million in 1988, $11.5 million in 1989, and its estimate for 1990 is $11.9 million.

50. In 1990 FAO provided considerable assistance by headquarters staff, including regional advisers, towards programme formulation, support, technical guidance, training and evaluation, at a cost of $700,000. A number of field experts specialists in various areas was assigned to country projects in 1990, at a cost of $7.8 million. Expenditure on food and agriculture statistics was $9.9 million in 1990, followed by $1.9 million on forestry statistics and by $0.6 million on fisheries statistics.

51. A breakdown by region shows that expenditure on projects in the African region was $6.9 million, the largest in 1990, followed by $3.2 million in the Asia and the Pacific region, $1.3 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and $500,000 in the West Asia and Mediterranean region. During this period emphasis was placed on assisting countries in their timely preparation for organizing the 1990 round of national agricultural censuses. In 1990 FAO spent some $1.6 million on equipment, including data processing equipment. Emphasis was also placed on training

activities, and in 1990 training seminars were organized in Africa and the Asia and the Pacific region on agricultural census techniques and forestry statistics.

3. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

52. During the period 1987-1990, Governments continued to rely on air transport economists located at ICAO regional offices for advice on aviation statistics matters. Some UNDP-financed country or regional projects included provision for technical guidance in the field of aviation statistics, but it is not possible to identify the actual costs or work hours as the projects were broad and involved statistics as only one element. Similarly, courses at some aviation training centres included statistics as one of the elements of broader air transport economics courses.

53. ICAO continued the programme of regional workshops on aviation statistics. Four such workshops were conducted during 1987-1990 for countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Middle East. The workshops were generally of one-week duration and were intended to provide an informal forum for discussing statistical problems and exchanging information and experiences.

54. A number of new initiatives are now being developed by ICAO, as a matter of priority, based on the results of a major survey conducted recently to ascertain statistical collection and to develop an increased programme of automation involving the Organization, aeronautical authorities, airlines, airports and other interested parties. The information obtained from this survey is being used by the ICAO Technical Assistance Bureau, which is considering: (a) developing or expanding courses in civil aviation statistics at existing ICAO-sponsored training centres and (b) establishing a pilot project to equip one or more developing country with basic microcomputer hardware and software in order to strengthen their statistical capability. With this effort, the ICAO Secretariat is developing software packages to enable countries to submit data to ICAO in diskette form and to receive data from ICAO in this form.

4. World Health Organization (WHO)

55. WHO continued to provide technical co-operation in health statistics to developing countries for a total of $9,378,000 in 1987, $8,387,000 in 1988, $9,013,000 in 1989 and $8,209,000 in 1990. Expenditure on regional advisers rose slightly in 1988-1989, but is estimated to fall back to near the 1987 level in 1990. Field assignments are below 1987 levels. On the other hand, expenditure on training and equipment has been increasing. Outlay on health statistics has held steady, while that on data processing has increased by 400 per cent.

56. Staff of the Division of Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Situation and Trend Assessment (HST) collaborated in a workshop on the statistics of disability, held in 1989 in Malta, in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. HST staff also took part in the Leadership Development Programme run by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, specifically for the module on statistical and epidemiological information.

57. A training workshop for health managers and statisticians in the collection of health and nutritional data through household surveys was organized towards the end of 1989 in the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, UNICEF and UNFPA. Plans for a similar workshop to be held in the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office early in 1991 are under way.

58. A book on methods for determining sample size in health studies, Adequacy of Sample Size in Health Studies, was published. A companion volume for the field worker, Determination of Sample Size: A User's Companion, is due for publication.

59. The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) awarded 10 research training grants in 1989 in the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics and data processing to candidates from six developing countries. Five training courses in basic statistics and the use of computers in the management and statistical analysis of clinical trials and epidemiological studies were conducted in institutions in China, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A one-week workshop on the analysis of survival data was given in Indonesia. Two training workshops, one in Geneva for collaborating scientists from four developing countries, and the other in Cairo, Egypt, were presented to teach the use of prototype data processing systems developed for specific research projects.

60. The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) held two workshops which included aspects of statistics and computing. The first, the Workshop on Use of Microcomputers in Tropical Epidemiology, was held in Ndola, Zambia, on 10 September to 21 September 1990, with the support of IDRC, Canada. The participants, mostly from East Africa, were taught to use microcomputers to carry through all aspects of an epidemiological study from preparation of their questionnaires and designing their data base to producing tables, graphs and simple statistics, and report writing. The second, the National Workshop on Tropical Diseases Field Research, was held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, from 29 October to 8 November 1990. The participants, tropical disease researchers from various parts of the People's Republic of China, were taught surveillance and sampling procedures, study designs for field research and qualitative and quantitative data analyses.

5. The World Bank

61. At previous sessions of the Statistical Commission, the Bank has reported on technical co-operation activities covering both general statistical fields and the specialized area of external debt statistics. The Bank continues to provide support to member countries through the funding of statistical projects and technical missions, and through the dissemination of appropriate studies of country practices. The Bank's accounting systems do not permit the compilation of dollar value estimates of the assistance provided.

62. In the past two years the Bank has focused its attention on two new areas. The first concerns the reinforcement of efforts designed to upgrade the skills of national professionals in the context of the Social Dimension of Adjustment (SDA) project. The second concerns the evaluation of general statistical capabilities, the constraints faced by member countries, identification of priorities, and

suggestions on how national Governments and the international donor community can best aid capacity building in member countries.

63. In pursuit of these goals the Bank has published two papers. The first, The SDA Regional Training Program, describes the actions that are being taken to support the programme's objectives and its sustainability beyond the immediate life span of the national projects under the SDA. The second paper on Information Systems and Basic Statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa maps out strategies for both national and international agencies to help develop viable information systems in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the Bank is currently engaged in three country case studies to assess the workings of statistical systems in three sub-Saharan African countries at different stages of development. As part of this effort, it is intended to identify the minimum set of data that are required by decision makers.

64. The main subject-matter areas on which the SDA programme is focusing are: policy analysis, planning of social policies and programmes, and data collection, management and exploratory analysis. These issues are being addressed through country missions and visits by consultants. The approach that the SDA is following in the development of its programme is, as far as possible, to build onto and support existing training programmes. The development of the programme is conceived of as having two major components: the development of technical modules and the establishment of appropriate delivery systems that will be used to deliver the modules. The modules will largely be based on the technical instruments and programmes that are being developed by the SDA regional unit in Washington, D.C. The strategy adopted by the SDA Unit is to base its regional training activities in Africa with the view that training will ultimately be delivered by African training institutions. However, in a preliminary phase of module development, training operations between donors' training centres and African subregional training centers will be arranged.

World Bank priorities

65. In the field of statistical training the main focus of the World Bank over the forthcoming 12 months will be to operationalize the training programme. This will be done following a "building block" approach. Each block constitutes an arrangement with a specific institution to develop a particular module or set of modules. Close contact is being maintained with the following institutions, the Centre Européen de Formation des Statisticiens Economistes des Pays en Développement (CESD), Statistics Canada, the Munich Centre for Advanced Statistics Training and the International Statistical Programmes Centre (IESPC).

66. A new development strategy for information systems is being evolved with emphasis on the establishment of clear priorities for developing information flows at the country level matched by increased resource allocations. Four broad data fields requiring action are stressed: social and demographic, natural resources and the environment, price and production statistics and national accounts. National- and international-level efforts for rehabilitation and building statistical systems in the Bank's view call for the establishment of a minimum set of statistical priorities and a national action programme for the development of

information systems, and investment in statistical infrastructure are required at the national level. Improved co-ordination among donors in the delivery of assistance is recognized as an important ingredient in the strategy. Three country case studies will be conducted over the next several months to identify how best the strategy now in place can be transformed into actionable programmes at the country level. The programmes to be developed will take into account country situations, their needs for data, and identify external technical co-operation inputs that will be required. It is hoped that these case studies will provide a basis for the design of future technical co-operation projects. The Bank will share findings from these studies with other interested multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and in this manner contribute towards improved delivery of technical assistance.

6. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

67. The provision of technical assistance in statistics constitutes a major part of the work of the Fund's Bureau of Statistics. The Fund makes such assistance available through missions to member countries, training courses in statistics at the IMF Institute and in the field, and visits to Fund headquarters by national technicians. Beginning in 1990 the Bureau of Statistics of the Fund commenced a new programme of technical assistance through the assignment of experts, at the request of member countries, for the development of statistical infrastructure in its areas of work.

68. The primary objective of the technical co-operation programme is to assist member countries in developing national statistical capabilities and in improving the currentness, coverage and quality of national data bases used for policy making and analysis. Technical assistance is provided for the most part through missions undertaken in response to requests from member countries. It is concentrated in five major fields of statistics which are of particular significance to the Fund, analytically and operationally, namely, money and domestic banking, balance of payments, government finance, international banking and external debt, and general economic data. During 1989 a total of 42 missions were undertaken by staff of the Bureau of Statistics involving assistance to countries and two regional seminars in money and banking and balance-of-payments statistics. Officials from member countries are also given special on-the-job training by the Bureau on a highly selective basis in various fields of statistics.

69. In addition, three training courses were given at the Fund's Institute in money and banking, fiscal and balance-of-payments statistics for more than 100 technicians from many member countries. The courses followed the statistical methodologies of the Fund contained in the fourth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual, a manual on Government Finance Statistics, and the draft "Guide to Money and Banking Statistics in International Financial Statistics". Country exercises were also carried out.

IMF priorities

70. Under the Articles of Agreement, IMF has responsibility for surveillance over member's exchange rate and related economic policies. In this context it pays particular attention to macro-economic statistics that fall under its major areas of responsibility. The Fund's technical co-operation in statistics is concentrated in three areas of special concern to the Fund: the balance of payments, monetary and government finance, and, as appropriate, support to other areas of general macroeconomic statistics, including national accounts, prices and international trade and international banking and external debt. In these additional areas, it supplements the work of other international organizations.

71. In carrying out its technical co-operation in the above fields of statistics, the Fund's Bureau of Statistics pays particular attention to developing national statistical capabilities, assisting in the application of standards and methodologies and helping develop data bases that serve the needs of policy analysis for national policy makers and for Fund operations.

7. Universal Postal Union (UPU)

72. UPU provided technical assistance in the form of training principally for the determination of mail volume, work measurement studies and rate fixing. Work was undertaken by consultants in the appropriate methodologies for application in the postal services.

73. In 1987 UPU expended $115,000 on technical assistance; in 1988, expenditure was $60,800; in 1989, $211,000; and in 1990, an estimated $421,000. UPU expended $42,700 on its training programme in 1987, $15,900 in 1988, $73,700 in 1989 and an estimated $41,200 in 1990. During 1989, assistance was given to 13 countries in the African region at a cost of $140,800, to two countries in the Asia and Pacific region at a cost of $9,400 and to one country in the Western Asia region at a cost of $60,800.

II. OTHER MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES

A. European Community

74. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) continued to provide technical co-operation in statistics to developing countries totalling $1,745,900 in 1987, $1,964,900 in 1988, $1,903,900 in 1989 and an estimated $1,975,900 in 1990. The African region received the most assistance, namely, $1,484,000 in 1987, rising to an estimated $1,869,400 in 1990.

75. The Community has concluded a large number of agreements with non-Community countries, in particular with developing countries. Of particular importance are: (a) the Lomé Convention, which governs Community co-operation with some 60 countries, and (b) the agreements with the Mediterranean countries. More recently,

closer relations have also been developed with Latin American and Asian countries. All these agreements essentially cover: the promotion and development of trade, support for rural development and increasing food security, the development of human resources, support in combating social problems and regional co-operation and support for regional integration. Statistical data play an important part in the implementation of foreign policy, and development policy in the context of these agreements. A considerable volume of statistical data on these countries is therefore compiled in close collaboration with the countries concerned. In addition, the statistics has itself become a subject in recent years of technical co-operation, both in order to increase the quality of the statistical data required for assessing development policy measures, and to improve the statistical infrastructure of developing countries.

EUROSTAT priorities

76. EUROSTAT technical co-operation in the field of statistics concentrates on the following:

(a) The training of statisticians in training centres which receive financial support from the Community;

(b) Harmonization of the external trade statistics of developing countries and their regional organizations, in order to facilitate rapid access to statistics and the elimination of any discrepancies;

(c) Improvement of technical resources for the compilation and processing of external trade statistics, particularly using microcomputers;

(d) Improvement of the statistical data needed for the formulation and management of food policy (crop estimates, early warning systems, market data, etc.);

(e) Compilation and analysis of statistical data for assessing the social consequences of restructuring measures (surveys of specific population groups on particular subjects, household budget and consumption surveys, etc.);

(f) In Central and Eastern Europe, supporting the adjustment of statistical systems in transition economies.

B. International Statistical Institute (ISI)

77. In its continuing effort to provide technical assistance to developing countries in the various branches of statistics, ISI has incurred expenses totalling $552,000 in 1987, $499,400 in 1988, $379,500 in 1989 and an estimated $505,000 in 1990. During the period under review, the focus has been on training and the development of technical guidance designed for developing countries, with an increasing amount being spent on data processing, demographic and social statistics and sampling and surveys. In 1989 assistance to the African region was $312,000 and to the Asia and the Pacific region, $36,000.

III. ISSUES IN STATISTICAL TRAINING

78. Since the attrition of trained personnel in national statistical offices still continued to be an important problem, during the past two years attention was paid to development efforts related to statistical training. Technical and other missions that were either advisory in nature or undertaken for formulating technical co-operation projects proposals functioned in collaboration with the national authorities to develop schemes for training of persons to meet the requirements of the national statistical offices and other departments of the government.

79. One important factor is the high cost of training in a number of well-recognized statistical training centres in a number of developing countries. The cost-effectiveness of general statistical training offered within a country for its nationals or somewhat specialized training within a region is being increasingly recognized.

80. Along with the regular courses offered for statistical training, countries have also recognized the importance of practical training. Resources available in developing countries with the capability to share expertise are being utilized for on-the-job training of personnel from statistically less-developed countries.

81. In the area of statistics on women, substantial work is being done with INSTRAW and ECA to improve statistics on women's participation in the informal sector. 3/ Building on this work, an interregional workshop (sponsored by DTCD) will be held in 1991 on development of statistics on women's work in the informal sector.

IV. ISSUES IN STATISTICAL DATA PROCESSING AND INFORMATICS

82. The importance of microcomputer technology is the result of rapid technical progress and standardization in the computing and digital electronics industries, and this progress is expected to continue into the future. Microcomputer technology is, in many ways, an appropriate technology for developing countries; it is small, inexpensive, easily maintainable, divisible, and the software user interface makes it generally much more attractive for persons who are not computer specialists to use. Developing countries are increasingly exploiting microcomputer technology to process population censuses. The United Nations technical co-operation activities in statistical data processing are increasing owing largely to the increased number of technical co-operation projects set up for the support of the 1990 round of population censuses. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNFPA continued to fund the bulk of the activities by providing expert services, data processing equipment, fellowship training programmes and other forms of technical support.

83. In response to the continuing concern of UNFPA, DTCD and of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in this field, several working papers have been prepared and issued by the Statistical Office. These include, The Use of Microcomputers for Census Data Processing 4/ and Technical Papers presented at the

Interregional Workshop on Population Data Bases and Related Topics, 5/ Voorburg, Netherlands, 6-10 November 1989. The documents focus upon the technological factors that are leading to the growth of microcomputer based markets, the substantial decentralization of functions that the technology encourages and the redistribution of responsibilities and requirements that these shifts produce. Furthermore, it discusses the application of microcomputers to specific areas in census data processing, with emphasis upon the functionality of the software that should be used in specific areas to obtain maximum assistance from a computer-based processing strategy. The work for this publication was funded by UNFPA.

84. On the basis of problems encountered in several national and international statistical offices concerning the potential threat that computer viruses represent to their work, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat provided written information to all national statistical offices on the subject. The purpose of the communication was first to share some basic information concerning computer viruses and secondly to obtain information concerning any experiences national statistical offices have had with computer viruses. The information received on the experience of national statistical offices and the measures undertaken for dealing with them are being used to provide ongoing technical advice and material to help national statistical offices in the prevention, deletion and elimination of these viruses.

85. The Software and Support for Population Data Processing project funded by UNFPA and executed by the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development continues to provide software and training for editing and tabulating population data, for demographic analysis of data and for population projections. The PC-Edit software package for entry and edit of census or survey data has been improved with new features and is being used in a growing number of countries. Because of the widespread use of minicomputers in population programmes, including management information systems, the project has developed a new maps and graphic database software called PopMap and assembled a microcomputer global population data base as an example of using spreadsheet and data base technology for organizing population data for use in administrative and planning activities and to support training activities making use of national-level population indicators. The project is supplying about 2,000 software packages per year to UNFPA-supported projects and institutions. The project also conducts or assists a number of training workshops for software users.

86. A joint ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2), is in operation in the ECE region. Twenty-three member countries are participating in the project. The contribution of developed countries amounts to $2,013,000, and UNDP funds were allocated at the level of $250,000. Specialists from statistical offices of developing and developed countries co-operated in Joint Groups on Software Evaluation, Communication, Implementation Strategy, Statistical Data Base Management, Data Editing and Table Generation. A list of SCP-2 products was made available to all member countries of the region and to other regional commissions.

V. PRIORITIES

87. Priorities for statistical development differ according to geographical regions and the general mandate of the donor or implementing agency. In sections I and II of the present report information has been included on priorities as reported by the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other multilateral programmes. The following additional information complements the information previously given.

88. In the period 1976-1977, the UNFPA Governing Council adopted a priority system as a way of concentrating the limited resources of UNFPA in those developing countries that had the most serious population problems and the most urgent need for assistance. The priority system was revised in terms of indicators and their threshold levels in 1982, and more recently in June 1988. It should be noted that once a country is on a priority list, it remains on the list until the system is updated or revised. Periodic updating is intended to reflect changes in the demographic situation or socio-economic conditions in the developing countries and permits modifications, if needed, in the funding of programmes to priority countries.

89. The current criteria for designation of priority status by UNFPA is that a country should have a gross national product (GNP) per capita of $750 or less, and any two of the following: (a) an annual increment of 100,000 or more in population size; (b) gross reproduction rate of 2.0 or more; (c) infant mortality rate of 120 or more per 1,000 live births; (d) density of agricultural population on arable land of 2.0 persons or more per hectare; (e) female literacy rate of 40 per cent or less. The 1988 revisions include the addition of female literacy rate as a criterion and adjustments in the threshold levels for the gross reproduction rate (from 2.5 to 2) and infant mortality rate (from 160 to 120). According to these last criteria, the number of priority countries has increased to 56, with 31 in sub-Saharan Africa, 16 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in the Middle East and Mediterranean and 3 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

90. By decision 90/34 on the fifth programming cycle, the thirty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council, inter alia, reaffirmed that national plans and priorities constituted the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It stressed that, in order to attain self-reliance in the developing countries through national capacity-building and strengthening, UNDP should focus on the following areas: (a) poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development; (b) environmental problems and natural resources management; (c) management development; (d) technical co-operation among developing countries; (e) transfer and adaptation of technology for development; (f) women in development. The above areas should receive priority in the programmes of UNDP taking fully into account the diverse needs of countries and regions. The Governing Council emphasized, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/211, the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries.

91. The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as a department of the United Nations Secretariat, is firmly guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, and it works in areas of its competence at the request of Member States, respecting their sovereign right to determine priorities for their own development. The Department mobilizes the skills of men and women from around the world in support of the efforts of developing countries themselves. The goal is that those who receive technical co-operation in a particular area will soon become self-reliant in that area.

92. With regard to the regional commissions, most have concentrated technical co-operation in the least developed countries and in specific countries or subregions. For example, ECA gives priority to least developed, land-locked and island countries and ESCWA to least developed countries. ESCAP gives priority to least developed countries and those with slow progress in achieving demographic goals. ECLAC has focused its assistance on the least developed countries and subregions, mainly in Central America and in the English-speaking Caribbean, in addition to a few South American countries, including, in some cases, less developed areas within a country. In assigning these priorities, a country's capability to generate and use the data, as well as the existing infrastructure needed to benefit from the technical co-operation, are considered.

93. Most United Nations organizations determine priorities for substantive programme activities by their mandates. For example, since the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984, UNFPA has placed increased emphasis on activities aimed at improving the role and status of women. An interregional project was established with UNFPA assistance in mid-1988 to support the development of national data bases on women, population and development. Technical missions have been undertaken to a number of countries to assist in project development and as a result several data base projects are now under way. A handbook on national statistical data bases on women and development was published in 1990. 6/ Efforts are also under way in several countries to develop improved surveys to measure more fully women's participation in the economy.

VI. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

94. The Commission may wish to:

(a) Comment on technical co-operation programme in statistics, including its scope and composition;

(b) Review emerging issues in statistical training and statistical data processing;

(c) Discuss issues on co-ordination in multilateral and bilateral technical co-operation statistical activities, particularly at the national level.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 3 (E/1889/21), para. 174 (h).

2/ Directory of Technical Co-operation in Statistics, United Nations, New York 1990 (ST/ESA/STAT/105/Rev.2).

3/ Handbook on Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Industry Trade and Services in Africa and Synthesis of Pilot Studies on Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Industry, Trade and Services in four African countries (working papers in English and French).

4/ The Use of Microcomputer in Data Processing, Working Paper UNDTCD/Statistical Office, New York 1989 (UNFPA/INT-88-P09/1).

5/ The 1989 Interregional Workshop on Population Data Bases and Related Topics, Technical Papers, UNDTCD, New York, 1990 (INT-88-P07/1).

6/ Handbook for the Development of National Statistical Data Bases on Women and Development, Series K, No. 6 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 89.XVII.9).

Annex

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN STATISTICS, 1987-1990

Table A.1. United Nations system expenditure by components

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and year	Total	Personnel	Training	Equipment	Other
United Nations a/					
1987	20 201	10 789	3 385	4 558	1 469
1988	24 852	12 616	3 803	6 263	2 170
1989	33 647	13 928	5 610	11 951	2 158
1990 b/	35 694	17 957	6 748	7 145	3 844
ILO					
1987	987	987	-	-	-
1988	1 107	1 107	-	-	-
1989	1 042	1 042	-	-	-
1990 b/	1 121	1 121	-	-	-
FAO					
1987	8 988	7 005	716	797	470
1988	9 172	7 012	823	818	519
1989	11 493	8 785	1 056	972	680
1990 b/	11 900	8 500	1 100	1 600	700
WHO					
1987	8 012	4 834	1 818	1 360	--
1988	6 397	3 309	1 493	1 578	17
1989	7 712	3 537	2 122	1 978	75
1990 b/	...	1 096	...	...	...
UPU					
1987	115	34	43	38	-
1988	61	43	18	-	-
1989	212	111	74	27	-
1990 b/	421	252	41	128	-

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table A.1.)

Note: The following symbols have been used in the table:

Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

A dash (--) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

a/ DTCD and the regional commissions.

b/ Estimate based on 1990 budget at the beginning of the year.

Table A.2. United Nations system expenditure by components

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and year	Total	Personnel	Training a/	Equipment	Other
United Nations (total)					
1987	20 201	10 789	3 385	4 558	1 469
1988	24 852	12 616	3 803	6 263	2 170
1989	33 647	13 928	5 610	11 951	2 158
1990 b/	35 694	17 957	6 748	7 145	3 844
of which:					
DTCD					
1987	17 162	8 461	2 892	4 490	1 319
1988	21 339	9 960	3 357	6 145	1 877
1989	29 391	10 894	4 835	11 820	1 842
1990 b/	31 365	15 065	5 721	7 094	3 485
ECA					
1987	1 337	992	282	16	47
1988	1 703	1 185	249	47	222
1989	1 955	1 333	297	66	259
1990 b/	2 142	1 545	305	20	272
ESCAP					
1987	450	295	139	6	10
1988	526	410	75	13	28
1989	921	625	223	52	21
1990 b/	1 236	681	459	13	83
ESCWA					
1987	743	668	51	6	18
1988	577	491	38	44	4
1989	817	631	164	9	13
1990 b/	573	488	75	10	0
ECLAC					
1987	509	373	21	40	75
1988	707	570	84	14	39
1989	563	445	91	4	23
1990 b/	378	178	188	8	4

a/ Data do not include training provided by the interregional, regional and technical advisers as well as project staff as such expenditure is included under personnel.

b/ Estimate based on 1990 budget at the beginning of the year.

Table A.3. United Nations system expenditure by region a/

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and region	1987	1988	1989	1990 b/
DTCD				
Total	17 162	21 339	29 391	31 365
Africa	6 619	9 340	9 483	17 425
Asia	3 125	3 940	10 135	6 824
Middle East and Europe c/	5 516	5 814	7 483	6 090
Americas	1 902	2 245	2 290	1 026
Regional commissions				
Total	3 039	3 513	4 256	4 329
ECA	1 337	1 703	1 955	2 142
ESCAP	450	526	921	1 236
ESCWA	743	577	817	573
ECLAC	509	707	563	378
ILO				
Total d/	987	1 107	1 042	1 121
Africa	603	793	829	993
Asia and the Pacific	98	107	96	113
Western Asia	29	-	-	-
Latin America and the Caribbean	198	192	97	-
FAO				
Total	8 988	9 172	11 493	11 900
Africa	5 375	5 242	6 936	6 900
Asia and the Pacific	2 232	2 405	2 722	3 200
Western Asia	567	551	471	500
Latin America and the Caribbean	814	974	1 364	1 300
WHO e/				
Total	...	5 484	6 703	7 265
Africa	...	1 017	901	1 651
Western Pacific	...	730	1 109	840
South East Asia	...	1 453	1 676	1 973
Eastern Mediterranean	...	1 303	1 535	1 109
Latin America and the Caribbean	...	981	1 482	1 692

Table A.3 (continued)

Organization and region	1987	1988	1989	1990 b/
IMF				
Total f/	54	46	31	...
Africa	29	17	10	...
Asia and the Pacific	10	7	8	...
Western Asia	g/	g/	g/	...
Latin America and the Caribbean	15	22	13	...
UPU				
Total	115	61	211	421
Africa	66	19	141	239
Asia and the Pacific	41	42	9	10
Western Asia	-	-	61	161
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	-	-	11

Note: The following symbols have been used in the table:

Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

a/ Regional groupings may vary according to organization.

b/ Estimate based on the budget for 1990 at the beginning of the year.

c/ Including regional and interregional projects.

d/ Totals include expenditures on interregional co-operation and Europe.

e/ Excluding interregional projects for which data breakdown was not available.

f/ Only shows expenditure on missions, since IMF budgetary system does not allow differentiation of technical co-operation activities from others.

g/ Included in the figures for Asia and the Pacific.

Table A.4. United Nations system expenditure by organization and subject area

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and subject area	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/
United Nations b/				
Multi-sector statistics	1 874	2 438	2 667	1 362
National accounts and other economic statistics	3 685	3 631	6 074	5 367
Demographic statistics c/	10 751	14 907	20 560	24 843
Data processing and informatics	3 752	3 487	3 952	3 690
Other	139	389	394	432
Total	20 201	24 052	33 647	35 694
ILO				
Multi-sector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	987	1 107	1 042	1 121
Data processing and informatics	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	987	1 107	1 042	1 121
FAO				
Multi-sector statistics	7 117	7 229	9 057	9 400
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	1 871	1 943	2 436	2 500
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	8 988	9 172	11 493	11 900
WHO				
Multi-sector statistics	-	-	-	...
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	...
Demographic statistics c/	1 229	1 214	1 286	...
Data processing and informatics	16	23	61	...
Other	6 767	5 160	6 365	...
Total	8 012	6 397	7 712	...

Table A.4 (continued)

Organization and subject area	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/
UPU				
Multi-sector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	23	22	104	204
Other	92	39	107	217
Total	115	61	211	421

Note: The following symbols have been used in the table:

Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

a/ Estimates based on the budget for 1990 at the beginning of the year.

b/ DTCD and the regional commissions.

c/ Including population censuses, census and survey cartography, sampling and surveys, household surveys and statistics on women.

Table A.5. United Nations system expenditure by organization and subject area

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and subject area	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/
DTCD				
Multi-sector statistics	1 491	1 935	2 209	1 205
National accounts and other economic statistics	3 393	3 253	5 447	4 293
Demographic statistics b/	8 769	13 129	18 391	22 701
Data processing and informatics	3 509	3 022	3 344	3 166
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	17 162	21 339	29 391	31 365
ECA				
Multi-sector statistics	31	66	54	60
National accounts and other economic statistics	142	168	76	271
Demographic statistics b/	939	926	1 239	1 207
Data processing and informatics	86	154	192	172
Other	139	389	394	432
Total	1 337	1 703	1 955	2 142
ESCAP				
Multi-sector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	12	33	308	618
Demographic statistics b/	438	427	457	490
Data processing and informatics	-	66	155	128
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	450	526	921	1 236
ESCWA				
Multi-sector statistics	147	197	320	97
National accounts and other economic statistics	90	101	124	102
Demographic statistics b/	390	157	237	252
Data processing and informatics	116	122	136	122
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	743	577	817	573

Table A.5 (continued)

Organization and subject area	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/
ECLAC				
Multi-sector statistics	205	240	83	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	48	76	119	83
Demographic statistics b/	215	268	236	193
Data processing and informatics	41	123	125	102
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	509	707	563	378

Note: The following symbol has been used in the table:

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

a/ Estimates based on the budget for 1990 at the beginning of the year.

b/ Including population censuses, census and survey cartography, sampling and surveys, household surveys and statistics on women.

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TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION: NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME

Progress in implementation and co-ordination of the National Household Survey Capability Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

At its twenty-fifth session the Statistical Commission requested a further report on the progress of the National Household Survey Capability Programme and its co-ordination with other household survey programmes. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

It reviews the progress in programme implementation in the context of its overall objectives of promoting the collection of data and developing capability in participating countries. It highlights its strategy in programme implementation as an "umbrella" programme for the co-ordination of technical co-operation efforts at the country level, optimizing at the same time on the contributions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies through "network" arrangements.

After detailing progress in programme implementation (paras. 2-11), the report reviews co-ordination arrangements with other international programmes (paras. 12-28). It then reviews activities in the training and preparation of technical studies (paras. 29-42); programme management and evaluation (paras. 43-49); and the work programme for 1991-1992 (paras. 50-66). Points for discussion are included in paragraph 67.

* E/CN.3/1991/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), endorsed its work programme for 1989-1990, and supported the suggestions for the future presented by the Secretary-General. It emphasized the need for further donor support for country-, regional- and global-level activities and effective co-ordination with other household survey programmes in operation, such as the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) project. As requested by the Commission, a report on the progress of NHSCP and its co-ordination with other household survey programmes is presented in this document.

I. PROGRESS IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

2. As of October 1990, the number of countries formally listed as participants in NHSCP was 45 - the target figure for phase III of the Programme, due to end in December 1991. The countries participating include:

Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe;

Asia and the Pacific: Bangladesh, Fiji, Mongolia, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand;

Western Asia: Bahrain, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen;

Europe: Cyprus;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru.

3. Of the above, 15 countries (Algeria, Angola, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Fiji, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama) were new entrants, having joined the Programme during 1989-1990.

4. Twelve of the participants (Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Bahrain, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Cyprus, Peru) have been transferred to the maintenance phase, having successfully completed one or more phases of the Programme or participated in it for a minimum of five years, and having attained reasonable ability or confidence to continue the survey programme on the basis of their own resources, subject to minimal external assistance without a formal project. However, some of them (Ethiopia and Malawi) have sought further assistance under other technical assistance programmes and are still being assisted by NHSCP in their household survey activities.

5. In addition, there are 23 countries for which project proposals have been prepared. They are:

(a) Government approved

Afghanistan, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guinea, Guyana, Oman, Senegal, United Arab Emirates;

(b) Government approval awaited

Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Seychelles, Tonga, Republic of Korea;

(c) Government proposal

China.

From among the proposals that have already been approved by their respective Governments, commitments for external funding support are almost "firm or nearing confirmation for programmes in Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Guinea and Guyana. Those four countries are expected to join NHSCP in 1991.

6. China submitted a proposal in 1988 for assistance under NHSCP. In view of the large component of external assistance involved in the proposal, it has not so far been possible to find a possible source of assistance, but exploratory discussions are still under way, and a formal project formulation mission is planned for the near future.

7. Papua New Guinea has advised that it will take up the household survey programme after the population census scheduled for 1990. In the mean time technical assistance was provided under NHSCP for the use of sampling in connection with the census and development of a sampling frame based on the census. Brunei Darussalam has also advised likewise that it will take up the survey programme after the census scheduled for 1990, while approval of the proposal for Seychelles by its Government is also imminent.

8. Others on the periphery ready to join the programme, with prospects of external assistance, include Argentina and Paraguay. Requests for programme formulation visits have also been received from the Central African Republic and Vanuatu, while the Congo has requested a reformulation visit and Nigeria has asked for a mission to extend its survey programme.

9. In addition, a subregional project for the Caribbean, which was prepared in 1988 at the request of the Caribbean Community secretariat, has been endorsed by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, and efforts are being made to find the requisite external resources. The feasibility of a similar regional project for the South Pacific is to be considered at the forthcoming eighth South Pacific Commission Regional Conference of Statisticians, due to convene in February 1991. In the mean time, one country in the region, Fiji, for which a project proposal was prepared in the early 1980s, has, on indication of good

prospects for the continuing availability of requisite domestic resources, formally joined the programme in 1990.

10. NHSCP has also been closely involved in the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) sponsored by the League of Arab States and supported by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the United Nations. The Project, which covers five Arab countries (Egypt, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen), envisages, essentially, surveys of maternal and child health, including infant and maternal mortality. It is executed, in part, by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (United Nations Secretariat) with the assistance of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. NHSCP has been involved particularly in the development of the methodology and survey tools of the Pan Arab Project. Since it started in October 1987 the Project has made very good progress. Model questionnaires and related manuals,, including a sampling manual, have been prepared in Arabic, English and French. The survey has already started in Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen, with assistance from NHSCP, particularly in the field of sampling. Fieldwork was completed in Mauritania in August 1990, and a preliminary report will be available in November 1990. Fieldwork is scheduled to start in December 1990 in Egypt and in April 1991 in Yemen. Following recommendations of the Higher Steering Committee of PAPCHILD during its meeting in October 1989, a project proposal to extend the programme to eight more countries of the Arab world has been formulated and will be submitted for approval to the Higher Steering Committee during its meeting in November 1990. The total budget for that phase is estimated at $3.3 million.

11. External assistance to household survey projects in countries participating in NHSCP has increased, cumulatively, from $26.55 million at the end of 1988 to $42.41 million at the end of 1990 - an addition of $15.86 million: $6.28 million in 1989 and $9.58 million in 1990. Countries that have received contributions exceeding $1 million include Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Among the donors, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA and UNICEF, along with lending from the World Bank, account in all for over 60 per cent of the total external assistance; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) contributed an additional 30 per cent. Of the increase of $15.86 million in external contributions in 1989 and 1990, just under a half ($7.91 million) is accounted for by contributions from UNDP, UNFPA and PAPCHILD, disbursed through NHSCP projects - the bulk of it executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The balance includes contributions under the Demographic Health Survey Programme and other bilateral assistance benefiting NHSCP participants. The principal beneficiaries in 1989 and 1990 - i.e., those receiving contributions of $500,000 or more - include Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

II. CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

12. Apart from the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), other international programmes involving household surveys are:

(a) Demographic and Health Survey Programme sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development, through the Institute of Resource Development;

(b) Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme, sponsored by UNICEF, FAO and WHO;

(c) The World Bank's continuing activities in regard to its Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS);

(d) The programme of "permanent household surveys" sponsored by the World Bank in collaboration with the African Development Bank in the context of its Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) project for Sub-Saharan Africa.

A. Demographic and Health Survey Programme

13. The Programme was initiated in 1984 to follow up the World Fertility Survey (WFS) of 1971-1984, and the Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys of 1976-1985, as a further effort in international demographic data collection, with an added emphasis on maternal and child health. The programme has so far covered 29 countries which include Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Zimbabwe, and in all of which NHSCP has either been in operation or been proposed. NHSCP has been kept informed of the programme activities as a matter of routine. In some countries (Ghana, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Zimbabwe) the surveys were conducted through the same agencies as those responsible for NHSCP activities. Elsewhere they were organized through agencies such as the Ministry of Health (Botswana, Guatemala, Morocco, Nigeria), the National Council of Population and Development (Kenya) and the Institute of Population Studies (Thailand). In a few cases, where the Programme meant an overlap with the NHSCP activity (Sri Lanka), the scope of the NHSCP survey was adjusted to avoid duplication.

B. Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme

14. The Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme owes its origin to the World Food Conference of 1974 which recommended the establishment of a global surveillance system by FAO, WHO and UNICEF to monitor the food and nutrition conditions of the disadvantaged groups of the population at risk and to provide a method of rapid or permanent assessment of all factors which influence food consumption patterns and nutritional status. A joint FAO/WHO/UNICEF committee was accordingly established in 1975 to organize the Programme. The main objectives are to produce and analyse existing information, promote the use of that information, and strengthen the institutional capacity to produce, analyse and use the information. Its relationship to NHSCP is thus, essentially, complementary.

Moreover, as the sources of information are many and not confined to household surveys, its relevance to NHSCP is partial. However, in so far as it aims at strengthening institutional capacity to produce information, as far as household surveys are concerned, it could be co-ordinated with NHSCP.

15. In fact, NHSCP activities in several countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe) include nutrition status surveys. Recent discussions with FAO have focused attention on the possibility of integrating food consumption surveys with household income and expenditure surveys.

C. Living Standards Measurement Study

16. The Living Standards Measurement Study was initiated by the World Bank in 1980 essentially as a research programme to strengthen national capabilities for conducting household surveys that generate policy-relevant data of high quality in a timely and cost-effective manner. The programme was based on the assumption that reliable data for assessing the distributional impact of macro-economic policies were not available; that the ongoing household survey programmes did not make it possible to assemble relevant data to address research and policy concerns since they usually involved uni-subject surveys; and that the usual data flow from sample surveys was not timely because of data processing constraints. In brief, the hypothesis was that the data supply did not match the demand.

17. The LSMS approach, therefore, favoured continuing multisubject household surveys based on small samples covering all relevant aspects through an integrated questionnaire and data processing arrangements integrated with survey operations in order to produce quick results. LSMS surveys have so far been conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania and Peru. Similar surveys have been initiated in Bolivia, Jamaica and Morocco, and are under consideration in Colombia and Pakistan.

18. The need for co-ordination between LSMS and NHSCP has been emphasized from time to time by the Statistical Commission, and has been actively pursued. In particular, NHSCP and LSMS have been collaborating in Bolivia, Jamaica and Pakistan.

D. Social Dimensions of Adjustment

19. The World Bank's project entitled Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) envisages, among other things, the institution of "permanent household surveys" in participating countries. The empirical framework, developed for the implementation of the project, deals with the scope, content and methodology of the survey programme, and includes, as reconstituted now, two types of household surveys - namely, an intensive periodic multisubject survey on a small sample and an extensive current multisubject survey on a large scale for the collection of data on certain priority indicators. The project envisages consultative arrangements with NHSCP, which is accordingly represented on the SDA Project Steering Committee as well as on its Working Group and Sub-Committee on Statistics. The World Bank has likewise been a member of the NHSCP Programme Review Committee since its inception, as one of its sponsors.

20. NHSCP has participated in several consultative meetings, workshops and seminars organized by the World Bank in pursuance of its SDA project: Warwick (November 1987), Washington, D.C. (April 1988), Abidjan (May 1988), Paris (February 1989), Arusha (March 1989), Dakar (March 1989) and Washington, D.C. (November 1989). NHSCP has also participated in several informal bilateral and multilateral discussions with the World Bank at Washington, New York, Ottawa and Addis Ababa.

21. At the country level, NHSCP and the SDA project collaborated in Ghana, as a test case, to develop a survey programme which would meet the requirements of the Government. A joint mission also visited Malawi where an ad hoc household survey programme, approved after the termination of NHSCP, is to be expanded to accommodate some of the data requirements of the SDA project.

22. UNDP is the lead agency on implementation of the SDA project in Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania. NHSCP has been assisting UNDP to initiate an integrated household survey programme in the United Republic of Tanzania designed to meet the data requirements of the SDA project. In Niger, on the other hand, an already formulated NHSCP programme has been adjusted to accommodate such needs.

23. Co-ordination of internationally sponsored or supported household survey programmes in Africa was discussed by the Working Group on Household Surveys of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), held at Addis Ababa in October 1989. The Group observed that current attempts at co-ordination had not been adequately effective and recommended that UNDP should take the initiative in reviewing the current arrangements and establish more appropriate mechanisms for such co-ordination within the framework of NHSCP. It also called for more vigorous efforts to secure funding support for national household survey capability programmes and noted the apparent lack of interest on the part of most donors to support programmes structured to develop national capabilities per se in the context of nationally conceived programmes.

E. Monitoring the achievement of social goals

24. A new proposal which calls for inter-agency collaboration concerns monitoring the achievement of social goals during the 1990s. The proposal, worked out by a group of experts from UNICEF, UNFPA and the Statistical Office, aims at establishing a reliable and systematic programme for the development of appropriate indicators for monitoring the achievement of social goals being identified by the countries to be featured in their respective development plans and the strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. These goals are being adopted not only by UNICEF and UNFPA but also the other specialized agencies such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The proposal is to take an objective look at the statistical and survey programmes of the developing countries in the light of recent developments and strengthen the national capabilities, wherever necessary, so as to enable them to produce current indicators on at least the more important social concerns. These include indicators on fertility, infant and child mortality, food consumption and

nutrition, education and literacy, employment and unemployment, and the status of women. The methodological approach, which is yet to be developed, may vary from country to country, depending on the existing institutional framework, but emphasis is laid on development of continuing household survey programmes, based on the experience already gained through NHSCP and other internationally sponsored efforts such as the ones discussed above.

25. The proposal was submitted to the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistics in June 1989 and was broadly supported. The proposal was also reviewed and endorsed by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in January 1990. The inter-agency working group has, in the meanwhile, followed up on the recommendations of the ACC Sub-Committee and conducted a preliminary study in Guyana. The progress made was reported to the ACC Sub-Committee at its last session in June 1990. The Sub-Committee has welcomed the report. Since then, proposals to undertake from six to eight pilot studies have been developed, followed by consultations with the regional commissions for their execution. Contacts with the participating countries concerned are also being established.

26. NHSCP has continued its pursuit of inter-agency co-operation in the promotion of household survey activities and the development of household survey methodology, with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially the ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO, and received in return the active co-operation of those agencies through participation in project formulation and technical review missions and collaboration in preparation of technical studies and training programmes and organization of technical meetings at the interregional as well as regional and subregional levels. The ILO, in particular, has continued to provide the services of its regional advisers in Africa and Asia and the Pacific for assistance in the promotion and implementation of NHSCP.

27. A recent event of considerable significance was an inter-agency consultative meeting convened by FAO in January 1990 to discuss co-operation between FAO, the World Bank (SDA project) and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (NHSCP) in the development of socio-economic indicators. The discussions concluded with recommendations concerning, among other things, integration of food consumption surveys with household income and expenditure surveys, use of socio-economic groups in household surveys for data analysis, and the development of socio-economic indicators of concern in rural development on the basis of household surveys.

28. NHSCP technical and operational activities are also closely co-ordinated with other statistical activities promoted by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat such as the population and housing censuses, economic and social statistics, statistics and indicators on the situation of women and national accounts. It has been a practice with NHSCP to develop household survey programmes as integral components of statistics development projects of wider scope. A recent development of major significance in this connection is an agreement between UNFPA and the Statistical Office to integrate some components of country household survey programmes - i.e., sample frames and post-censal demographic surveys - wherever possible, with UNFPA-funded population census projects.

III. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

29. The NHSCP Training Programme in New Delhi, a regional household survey training project financed by UNDP, in support of the training facilities offered by the Government of India in pursuance of the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries, was extended for a further two years, effective January 1989, with a new focus on the least developed countries and the Pacific Island countries of the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Under the Programme, six more training courses have been conducted:

(a) A fifth course in sampling and survey methodology, February to May 1989;

(b) A fifth course in data processing for household surveys, August to November 1989;

(c) A new course for the training of trainers in sampling and survey methodology, July to August 1989;

(d) A sixth course in sampling and survey methodology, February to May 1990;

(e) A sixth course in data processing for household surveys, August to November 1990;

(f) A new course for the training of trainers in data processing for household surveys, July to August 1990.

30. The Training Programme, though primarily meant for Asia and the Pacific, has been opened up for the first time to Africa and West Asia, and a few countries of Africa have, accordingly, taken advantage of the courses. A tripartite review of the Programme, held in December 1989, expressed satisfaction with the progress and recommended that possibilities of further promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries be explored. The project executed by ESCAP has been assisted by NHSCP technical advisers and ESCAP regional advisers.

31. Unless extended through tripartite agreement with further assistance from UNDP, the project will be terminated at the end of 1990. A terminal review of the project is scheduled for early 1991.

32. NHSCP has also offered to provide the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), located at Tokyo, with lecturing assistance in sample surveys, within the framework of its general course for statistical training. One of the NHSCP technical advisers gave a series of lectures, accordingly, at SIAP in January 1990.

33. The programme of technical studies undertaken by NHSCP to supplement the Handbook of Household Surveys 1/ has made further progress. The studies "Household income and expenditure surveys", 2/ "Measuring literacy through household surveys" 3/ and "Assessing the nutritional status of young children" 4/ have been released for wider circulation in a preliminary form. The ILO has also announced publication of its manual, Surveys of the Economically Active Population. 5/ In

the context of PAPCHILD surveys on maternal and child health, a sampling manual has been prepared, circulated for comments and finalized in the light of comments received and thereafter published and widely disseminated.

34. Preparation of draft guidelines for household surveys on health has been completed. The draft, along with the already published studies on nutrition status and literacy, was placed before an interregional working group convened in April 1990 for discussion and is being finalized in the light of the discussions.

35. The methodological case studies of household surveys in agriculture, initiated in 1987, with specific reference to Africa, were completed and placed before the Workshop on Food Supply Information Systems in Africa, held at Nairobi (Kenya) in March 1989 in collaboration with the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. A consolidated report, based on those case studies and other similar studies undertaken by FAO, has since been completed with the co-operation of FAO and is being prepared for publication and release in early 1991.

36. A new technical study on household surveys of energy consumption was initiated in 1989. The first draft of the study has since been reviewed and revised. The revised draft has been circulated for wider comments and is being finalized in the light of the comments. It will be available for release in a preliminary form in early 1991.

37. A technical study on surveys of household economic activities has recently been initiated, following consultations on a draft outline with the ILO, FAO, the World Bank and the concerned branches of the Statistical Office. A first draft of the study is likely to be available towards the end of 1990. That, along with the study on energy consumption surveys, will be placed for discussion before an interregional working group to be convened during the first half of 1991 and finalized thereafter.

38. Work has also been initiated on the preparation of guidelines for the estimation of sampling errors and guidelines for sampling for rare and elusive populations. A first draft of the former has been circulated for comments, and a draft of the latter is likely to be available in the first quarter of 1991.

39. Other subjects under consideration for technical studies or guidelines include:

(a) Use of micro processors in household surveys;

(b) Preparation and dissemination of survey reports;

(c) Time-use surveys;

(d) Housing surveys;

(e) Household surveys for rural development.

Time-use and housing surveys are also on the work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and may call for technical inputs from NHSCP. Household surveys for rural development have been suggested by a recent FAO/Statistical Office/World Bank consultative meeting, to be taken up as a joint FAO/NHSCP undertaking.

40. NHSCP has continued to promote the organization of technical working groups, workshops or seminars on household survey methodology at the interregional, regional, subregional and national levels. Apart from the interregional working group on household surveys convened at London in April 1990 (see para. 34 above) and the regional workshop on Food Supply Information Systems held at Nairobi (Kenya) in March 1989 (see para. 35 above), NHSCP has also convened two international expert working groups in New York in the context of PAPCHILD - one in January 1989, to finalize the PAPCHILD model questionnaires, and another in July 1990, to review the proposed draft guidelines for country principle report and data analysis. Other meetings with which NHSCP was associated include:

(a) ECLAC Seminar on the Use of Sampling in the 1990 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, Buenos Aires (Argentina), April 1989;

(b) PAPCHILD Regional Workshop on Demographic, Health and Nutrition Surveys, Tunis (Tunisia), April 1989;

(c) Workshop for the Redesign of Socio-demographic Statistics, Buenos Aires (Argentina), August 1989;

(d) ECA Working Group on Household Surveys, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), October 1989;

(e) ESCAP Seminar on the Design and Evaluation of Household Surveys, Beijing (China), May 1990;

(f) Expert Group Meeting on Strategy of PAPCHILD Data Analysis, Tunis (Tunisia), September 1990;

(g) ECLAC/NHSCP Workshop on Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for English-speaking Caribbean countries, Kingston (Jamaica), November 1990.

41. A regional workshop on household surveys, proposed for Western Asia and scheduled for October 1990 as a forum for the dissemination of the NHSCP technical studies on household income and expenditure surveys, health surveys, nutrition status surveys and literacy surveys, was cancelled due to disturbed conditions in the region.

42. NHSCP was represented at the forty-seventh session of the International Statistical Institute, held at Paris in August-September 1989, where a paper on household budget surveys in developing countries was presented; the twenty-first General Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held at New Delhi (India) in September 1989; the First Scientific Conference of African Statisticians, held at Abuja (Nigeria) in

October-November 1989, where a session on technical assistance in statistics was organized; the ECLAC meeting of the Directors of Statistics, held at Santiago (Chile) in September 1989; the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, held at Antigua (Caribbean) in November 1989, which endorsed the proposal for a subregional programme of household surveys in the Caribbean; the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, held at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in January 1990; the Second Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics, in Beijing in October 1990, where one of the NHSCP technical advisers presented a paper on statistical issues in monitoring social goals in the 1990s; and the Tenth Inter-American Statistical Conference, in Mexico in November 1990, for which NHSCP was invited to present a paper on household economic activities.

IV. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

43. The Central Co-ordinating Unit had its sanctioned technical advisers in position all throughout 1989 and the first half of 1990. A vacancy at the end of June is being filled. Effective from January 1990, one of the UNDP-financed posts of technical advisers, along with one of the UNDP-financed posts of secretaries, has been taken over by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The staff strength of the Unit thus consists at present of:

1 programme co-ordinator	- funded by UNDP
1 technical adviser	- funded by UNDP
1 technical adviser	- funded by UNFPA
2 technical advisers	- provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
1 documentalist	- funded by UNDP
1 secretary	- funded by UNDP
1 secretary	- provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

UNICEF continued to provide some funds for the implementation of NHSCP activities, especially in subject fields of its concern.

44. At the regional level, there are two full-time regional advisers on household surveys at ECA - one provided by UNDP and the other provided by the ILO. In addition, eight other regional advisers in ECA - funded by UNFPA mainly for assistance in demographic statistics (3), civil registration (1), cartography (1), sampling (1), and data processing (2) - were also available for help part-time in household surveys.

45. In Asia and the Pacific, the ILO post of regional adviser on household surveys, terminated at the end of 1988, was reinstated in August 1989 as regional adviser on labour statistics and surveys, to assist ESCAP as well as the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. His services are available for four fifths of his working time for assistance in household surveys. The ESCAP Statistics Division has also two regional advisers on population censuses and surveys, one in energy statistics and one in data processing, whose services are available part-time for assistance in household surveys. In addition, the Government of India has agreed to provide short-term consultants for assistance in household surveys, if need be, under its programme of technical co-operation among developing countries.

46. In Western Asia, there is only one data processing adviser providing technical support for household surveys. However, an adviser mainly concerned with national accounts and two others, funded by UNFPA for assistance in population censuses and demographic analysis, do provide marginal support for household surveys, where needed. ESCWA has also concluded an agreement with AGFUND to provide limited support for NHSCP activities at the country level, while assurance has also been given by the ILO that, if necessary, short-term consultancy services can be provided for surveys of its concern for countries of the region, on request.

47. In Latin America and the Caribbean, consequent on the withdrawal of the ILO regional adviser in mid 1988, no other assistance is available for household surveys. One of the technical advisers, attached to the Central Co-ordinating Unit, has therefore had to take up occasional missions to countries of the region for technical assistance. Spain has in the meanwhile been providing technical co-operation both through bilateral technical assistance on an ad hoc basis and training workshops in Madrid (at Instituto Nacional Estadistica).

48. The NHSCP Reporter, which remained suspended for five years, was revived in 1989 as a half-yearly feature, and three issues (June 1989, December 1989 and September 1990) have been released in English, French, Spanish and Arabic for general information. The fourth issue (December 1990) is under preparation.

49. Emphasis continues to be placed on the evaluation of NHSCP activities and projects. As a part of country operations, evaluations of NHSCP programmes have been conducted in Botswana, Lesotho, Mali, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe. UNDP commissioned and participated in the evaluations of Mali and Sierra Leone. Evaluation in Mali was undertaken by an independent team, while ECA along with two independent members constituted the evaluation team in Sierra Leone. ECA/ILO participated in all other evaluation missions. FAO and UNICEF participated in the evaluation mission to Zambia, FAO joined the mission to Lesotho and SIDA/Statistics Sweden was a member of the team which evaluated the programme in Zimbabwe. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development participated in all evaluation teams except those to Mali, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. Respective mission reports indicate satisfactory implementation of survey programmes and progress towards establishment of self-sustaining capabilities. A further round of surveys has been recommended in each case. Lessons learned from these evaluation studies have helped all concerned to strengthen national programme activities and related technical co-operation. In addition, the results of these evaluations have been

used to strengthen NHSCP activities generally. Evaluation reports have been circulated widely among interested agencies and many of the participants in NHSCP.

V. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1991-1992

50. As reported to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session, the NHSCP Programme Review Committee considered the draft plan of operations at its meeting held in August 1987 and November 1988 and approved the continuance of the Programme as an interregional project up to 1991. The Secretary-General's report to the Statistical Commission presented some suggestions for the future of the Programme beyond 1991. The Commission supported the suggestions for the future and emphasized the need for further donor support for country-level as well as regional and global-level activities on a continuing basis well beyond 1991. It also recognized the supportive role played by the regional commissions and reiterated the need for strengthening the regional teams.

51. The UNDP's present commitment to the Programme as an interregional project ends at the end of 1991. UNFPA has confirmed that its assistance would continue, and a review of the level of such assistance is being undertaken, possibly to enhance it further. UNICEF too has indicated that it would favourably consider any new requests for assistance. This is under current review. The new initiative for monitoring social goals, jointly developed by UNFPA, UNICEF and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, is considered a promising means of obtaining current indicators on matters of social concern as identified by the countries for the Fourth Development Decade (see para. 24 above). Such an initiative will of course keep in view the need for establishing enduring national capabilities.

52. The work programme for 1991 was reviewed by the Programme Review Committee at its last meeting in November 1990. Both country-level activities and work in the field of methodological development and training will continue beyond 1991.

A. Country participation

53. It is expected that by the end of 1991, around 50 countries will have joined the Programme (see para. 5 above). In addition to the 12 countries already in the maintenance phase, 15 more, which joined the Programme before 1986, will be transferred to the maintenance phase by the end of 1991, thus leaving some 23 countries with currently active programmes, which call for continued support beyond 1991. The subregional project for the Caribbean and a similar project for the South Pacific, if developed before 1991, may also be operational. Whether the Central Co-ordinating Unit continues in its present form or gets absorbed into the technical advisory services of the Statistical Office, institutionally and functionally, it should be possible to provide technical backstopping services for the current and any new participants as well as those in the maintenance phase, during 1991 and thereafter.

B. Co-ordination with international agencies

54. NHSCP will continue to extend its hand of co-operation to the World Bank in the implementation of its SDA project and the promotion of its LSMS methodology in a co-ordinated manner to avoid wasteful duplication, prevent disruption of current statistical activities and optimize the benefits of co-ordinated development. In particular, wherever NHSCP has been in operation, it would prefer to promote the SDA project and LSMS surveys within its framework, if the countries so desire. Thus, in countries interested in NHSCP and SDA and LSMS, joint missions could formulate integrated household survey programmes to be implemented through mutual collaboration. Such collaboration could materialize in 1991 in the missions that NHSCP has been invited to send to the Central African Republic for project formulation and to the Congo and Nigeria - the former for project reformulation and the latter for extension of its ongoing programme.

55. Similarly, to the extent that demographic health survey activities are complementary to NHSCP activities, they may be regarded as adding to national capabilities. Where they overlap NHSCP activities, it is desirable to co-ordinate the activities in order to avoid wasteful duplication. Two anticipated instances of such co-ordination are the case of Yemen, where a demographic health survey is to be implemented in collaboration with the PAPCHILD survey, and Niger, where the proposed demographic health survey has already been integrated within its NHSCP country programme. According to a recent DHS Newsletter, the programme is to be extended to 25 other countries, a majority of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Some of them will be NHSCP participants as well. It would be desirable for NHSCP to continue promoting demographic health surveys within its framework.

56. NHSCP will continue to accommodate the statistical concerns of other specialized agencies such as the ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO in national household survey programmes organized with its technical support, to the extent feasible. It will also work in close collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA and any other specialized agency in the further development, testing and implementation of the proposal for monitoring the achievement of social goals.

C. Technical studies

57. Work on finalization of six new publications of NHSCP is nearing completion. The guidelines for household surveys on health and the respective guidelines for estimation of sampling errors and sampling for rare and elusive populations, along with the two technical studies on household surveys of energy consumption and surveys of household economic activities and the methodological report on household surveys of agriculture in Africa, will all be finalized and printed during 1991.

58. Technical studies on use of micro processors in household surveys and preparation and dissemination of survey reports will be initiated in 1991 and hopefully finalized and released in 1992.

59. NHSCP will continue to work closely with the concerned sections of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in the studies on housing and

time-use surveys, if they are taken up during the course of the next two years. It will also continue to draw on and intensify its collaboration with the staff of the Statistical Office concerned with statistics and indicators on the situation of women, particularly in promoting improved methods for collecting and utilizing data on the economic activities of women and their participation in the informal sector. It will collaborate with FAO in the preparation of a technical study on household surveys for rural development if it is taken up by FAO during the next biennium. FAO is expected to prepare on its own supplementary guidelines on the analysis of food consumption data collected through household income and expenditure surveys, to be released under the NHSCP series of technical studies.

D. Other publications

60. The NHSCP Reporter will continue as a half-yearly feature as long as NHSCP continues. The December 1990 issue will include, among other things, an updated list of surveys conducted under NHSCP and indicate the status of the availability of survey results.

61. It is proposed that the summary results of household surveys conducted under NHSCP be prepared and published during the course of 1991. The publication will cover all the countries participating in the programme, to the extent that results are available in already published or unpublished forms.

62. It is also proposed that some of the technical papers prepared from time to time in pursuance of NHSCP and presented at various conferences, seminars etc. be assembled and published in a volume, to be entitled Occasional Papers of NHSCP, for wider circulation among the developing countries.

E. Training and technical workshops

63. NHSCP will continue to assist the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in its training programmes in sampling and survey methodology. It will also assist the ESCAP Statistics Division in its efforts to continue the regional training programme in household surveys organized in collaboration with the Government of India for the benefit of the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia and Africa. It will explore the possibilities of initiating similar programmes for English-speaking and French-speaking Africa in the context of ECA's Statistical Training Programme for Africa, and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

64. NHSCP will pursue the project titled "Technical advisory services in the development and application of sampling frames and sample designs for household survey programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean region", which is being funded by UNFPA, and will assist ECLAC in its implementation. The project involves six subregional workshops - two in English for the Caribbean subregion (see para. 40 above) and four in Spanish, two each for Central America and South America - for the discussion of general guidelines on the construction of sampling frames and sample designs for integrated household survey programmes on the basis of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses.

65. An interregional working group on household surveys, the third in a series, will be convened in 1991 to discuss the NHSCP technical studies on surveys of household economic activities and guidelines for household surveys on health and estimation of sampling errors and sampling for rare and elusive populations.

66. NHSCP will assist WHO in organizing its proposed working group on health statistics in South-East Asia in April 1991. Such assistance will also be made available to the regional commissions in the organization of similar other regional workshops.

VI. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

67. The Commission may wish to comment on:

(a) The progress in programme implementation and the work programme for 1991-1992;

(b) The future of NHSCP after the termination of its present phase in 1991;

(c) The need for effective inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination of household survey promotional programmes.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.13.

2/ DP/UN/INT-88-XO1/6E (1989).

3/ DP/UN/INT-88-XO1/10E (1989).

4/ DP/UN/INT-88-XO1/8E (1990).

5/ Geneva, International Labour Office, 1990.